(e) whether it is cost effective to obtain Milk from civil trade instead of having the burden of Military Farms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) There are 64 Military Farms in the country of which 51 are supplying milk to the Defence personnel at different stations.

(b) The total no. of livestock in the Military Farms is 23698 including 367 buffaloes. The milk production during 1993-94 was 325 lakh litres.

(c) The Military Farms are earning profit.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Military Farms have been entrusted with the Prime responsiblity of supplying hygienic and wholesome milk of assured quality as per the laid down specification as milk forms an essential part of the diet of the troops. A number of Military Farms are located in the Northern and North-Eastern areas where the supply of milk from civil-trade is not sufficiently available and the troops have to depend largely upon the supply of milk from the Military Farms. Besides, the audited cost of milk produced at Military Farms is less than the average rate of milk sold by the Cooperative Federations under National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India to the civil consumers.

Meeting of Dy. Prime Minister of Russia with Defence Officials

3825. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first Dy. Prime Minister of Russia, Shri Andrei Kokoshin recently met the senior Defence officials;

(b) if so, whether any agreement or decision has been arrived at between the two at this meeting on 'Defence Ties' with India; and

(c) if so, the details of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Shri Andrei Kokoshin, the First Deputy Defence Minister of Russia had recently met senior Defence Ministry officials in India.

(b) and (c) During the visit of Shri Andrei Kokoshin, discussions on matters of mutual interest were held. At the conclusion of his visit, a Statement of Mutual Understanding between the Ministries of Defence of India and the Russian Federation and a Protocol on the results of the officials visit of the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation were signed.

Involvement of private sector in defence sector

3826. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought the help of the private sector in making the country self sufficient in the defence sector;

(b) if so, the specific plan of Government to involve private sector in the field of defence; and

(c) the details of response of the private sector thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Department of Defence Production & Supplies has always encouraged units in the private sector to take up production of components and assemblies for defence equipment and stores. In fact, it has been decided not to make fresh investments in defence public sector to create any facilities that are already available in the private sector.

Eight technical Committees, each headed by an officer of the rank of Major General/Brigadier or equivalent possessing technical expertise in the discipline concerned, impart assistance to private sector units by way of technical specifi-

cations, drawings, critical parameters and also samples wherever required for indigenously developing items. These technical committees relate to armament, aeronautics, electronics, engineering equipment, marine stores, vehicles, infantry combat vehicles and general stores. These committees also give technical guidance during the development of the items by private sector units.

In order to give a further thrust to the participation of Private sector and specifically the small scale Industry sector in the development of defence equipment, an action plan in association with Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) was implemented in 1994. As part of the action plan three day workshops/exhibitions were organised at nine different industrial centres in different parts of the country. During these meets, samples of items were displayed and the participants apprised of the technical requirements, quality parameters and the procedure for registration of defence vendors.

Regular interaction between the Department of Defence Production & Supplies and private sector industry is maintained through a two tier mechanism consisting of an Apex Body under the Chairmanship of Secretary (DP&S) and three functional groups chaired by Joint Secretary (Supplies).

The value of the developmental defence supply orders placed on the private sector has risen from approximately Rs. 60 crores per annum during the early eighties to around Rs. 200 crore per annum in recent years. In 1994-95, this touched a peak of Rs. 265.36 crore. Once development is completed, the follow-on business in the private sector for these items is of a considerably higher magnitude.

Setting up of aircraft repair base

3827. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Pioneer of January 18, 1995 under the caption, "Allied signal plans repair base with HAL";

(b) if so, what are the facts and relevant details in this regard;

(c) what will be the cost of setting up of the aircraft repair base and when will the work on its setting up is likely to be completed; and

(d) what are the details for the sharing of the cost and profits of the proposed repair base?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has a long standing association with Allied Signal and has been manufacturing aircraft engines under licence. The two companies have signed a memorandum of understanding identifying future areas of cooperation which includes repair and overhaul of equipment manufactured by Allied Signal. However, there is no plan to set up an aircraft repair base jointly by the two companies.

Issues raised by Gen. Buch regarding ex-servicemen and war-widows

3828. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of Lt. General G.S. Buch (Retired) as reported in the Tribune of 3rd April, 1995 regarding the hardships and hazards faced by ex-servicemen, war-widows and their dependents emphasising the need for enforcement of the principle "one rank one-pension, a Bill of Rights of Ex-servicemen" and asking about the use and appropriation of the Post-war Reconstruction Fund constituted after world war II; and

(b) if so, whether Government have since examined and considered the issues